

Vacancy update No 5 – 16th November 2016

Vacancy Update No 5: Work is continuing on the preparation of our Benefice Profile. This is the document which describes us – our churches, our communities and our life together, and is our “shop window” for anyone who may be considering whether God is calling them to be our next vicar.

The core team of Pauline Humphreys, Sue Payne, Mark Cook and Alan Gwynn have now reached draft 5 of the document, and extend their thanks to all who have contributed to the process so far. Although we have now gathered most of the information needed, there is still some way to go in shaping this into a document which will present a full and compelling picture of how God is working among us and the sort of person we would like to lead us forward into the next stage of our life as the Body of Christ in our community.

In consultation with Catharine Morris, the Parish Development Advisor for Berkshire, who is helping us with the process, we have therefore agreed to extend the timetable. This means that the “Section 12” meeting, when the PCCs meet with the Bishop to agree the final version of the Profile, originally scheduled for 14th December, will now be re-arranged for a later date. However, since we had already allowed a break over Christmas and New Year before advertising the post in January, we hope to keep the overall delay in the process to a minimum.

An important benefit of the additional time is that the Open Evening on December 8th can now be a more interactive session with a greater opportunity for us all to engage with the process and to think and pray together about where God might be leading us in the years ahead. If you haven't already done so, do put the date in your diary now! The meeting will be held in St Mary's Church Centre, starting at 7.30pm. There will be drinks and nibbles and a chance for us all to socialise and get to know one another better, as well to engage in the serious part of the evening. As preparation for our meeting, please do continue to prayerfully consider where God is leading us as a Benefice and LEP, and what we are looking for in our new Incumbent.

If you have missed any previous Updates, you can find them on our website at www.thru-christ.org.uk. Click on the “Vacancy Updates” link below the picture on the front page. You will also find there our two Vacancy Prayers.